

The Cattlemen's Association voted to become the first mainstream agricultural organization in the Nation to form a land trust, which was officially incorporated in 1995 as the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust.

Jay worked diligently for land preservation as a founding member and past president of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust. Jay's community service record is also impressive, and includes serving on the boards of the Colorado Water Trust, the Colorado Environmental Coalition, the Steamboat Springs School District and Education Fund, the North Routt Fire Protection District, the Yampa Valley Medical Center, and as a founding member of the Community Agriculture Alliance.

He served on the Governor's Agriculture Land Conversion task force in 1995 and is a member of the Routt County Cattlemen and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. He also served as a regional representative in northwest Colorado for Senator Ken Salazar.

In 1997, Jay received the American Land Conservation Award, which recognizes outstanding volunteer leadership in land and water conservation. In April 2009, he received the William Funk Award for the Nonprofit Association of Colorado, which honors acknowledged leaders who can unify people and organizations around a common cause.

Over the years, Jay's insight and hard work for the land trust movement and conservation have proven invaluable. Jay has become a trusted resource for those considering conservation easements.

That experience—and his deep roots in the community and his dedication to service—lead Jay to twice run for a seat in the Colorado State Legislature. Jay applied the same work ethic—and integrity—to these races as he does to his land preservation work. These were very close races, and his loss has been our gain.

In March of this year, I asked Jay to join my office as field director for the issues and concerns of northwestern Colorado. I had no hesitation offering him the position, as he is a well-known and well-respected community member of this region of Colorado. He had performed similar great service to a former Senator from Colorado—and now Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar. He has been doing an exemplary job working with the communities and citizens in this area on issues regarding water, land, agriculture, outdoor recreation, rural health care and services, and federal public land management. Jay is an expert in all of these areas and has already proven himself as a valued member of my team.

Jay's dedication to the land and the need to keep it productive and preserved was recently highlighted in a book from Colorado's preeminent landscape photographer, John Fielder. The

book, called *Ranches of Colorado*, features glorious photographs of many Colorado ranches, including the Fletcher ranch. In the text of the section describing the Fletcher Ranch, former Denver Post reporter and author James Meadow had this to say about Jay when describing the Fletcher ranch family history:

[Jay] fell in love with the land and the cattle and stayed to learn their ways; remaining on the ranch year after year, until the years became decades, and the decades tumbled past a half-century, and there is still no end in sight to [Jay's] love of the land. You can see that love in his eyes [and] you can hear it in his voice. It is a soft voice, a voice that cites Mother Teresa and the intricacies of cattle genetics with the same kind of curiously easygoing gravitas.

This is a short but apt description of Jay—his story and passion for the land he has worked and loved.

I appreciate that Colorado Open Lands has also recognized Jay's great work and am pleased that they are honoring him with this prestigious award. My staff and I want to express our congratulations to Jay for all his great work. We will continue to expect many more great accomplishments from him in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE CANNELOS

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the leadership George Canellos demonstrated during his 4 years of public service as Federal Cochair of the Denali Commission. From 2005 to 2009, George effectively used his extensive experience in rural Alaska to improve the delivery of affordable, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure to scores of Alaska communities.

With his guidance, the partnership between the Denali Commission and the State of Alaska grew in significant ways and has become the cornerstone of the Commission's success and progress. His advancement of collaborative efforts helped find innovative solutions with a promptness for carrying out the Denali Commission's mission.

In his first year as Cochair, a transportation advisory committee was created, composed of rural Alaska leaders with broad experience. Its successful implementation made it a useful model for committees to come. In 2007, the Commission opened its first rural office, taking a new approach with a remote site workforce.

George has led the Commission with passion and dedication to using innovative strategies in rural Alaska. For 2 years in a row, the Denali Commission was recognized by the National Association of Development Organization for innovative program work.

His contributions have moved the Commission forward, leaving a positive outlook for upcoming years. His efforts will continue to do good work and play a critical role in the quality of life and

economic development of Alaska's most remote communities.

Mr. President and colleagues, please join me in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments and important work in improving the quality of life, infrastructure, housing, access to health care, and economic opportunity in rural Alaska. We thank him for his service and wish him luck as he begins the next chapter of his life.●

RECOGNIZING GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

• Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, 40 years ago, just a few miles south of Chicago, a brand new public university first opened its doors to an incoming class of students. The school was designed to reflect the core values of higher education, but in an innovative, nontraditional way. To bring exceptional undergraduate and graduate-level academics to a diverse student body, and to extend the benefits of a quality education beyond the walls of the college classroom.

This week, as Governors State University observes its 40th anniversary, I am pleased to join the students, alumni, administration, and faculty in celebrating the continued success of their fine public institution.

Since its inception, the Governors State community has grown and developed into an educational and cultural center of Illinois. And even as the university looks back with pride on the last 40 years, they recognize that the best way to celebrate their past is by looking to the future.

I would like to commend Governors State University for its indelible contributions to the quality of higher education in Illinois, and its continuing leadership in this field. Their evolving vision continues to inspire thousands to enroll every year. Their commitment to excellence has touched the lives of generations of students.

And with the recent creation of a doctoral program in physical therapy, Governors State continues to expand its reach and broaden its horizons.

I am proud to join Governors State University in celebrating its first 40 years as a bastion of the Illinois educational community. And I have no doubt that as we look ahead to the next 40 years, this fine institution will continue to lead the way.●

REMEMBERING SILVIANO ROMERO

• Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow that today I pay tribute to one of the finest men Northern New Mexico has ever known, Silviano Romero, or "Silver," as he was known to all who knew and loved him.

On Sunday, October 25, 2009, Silver passed away, 1 month shy of his 90th birthday, in the small Northern New Mexico town of Embudo where he was born on November 27, 1919. But for his service to our Nation in the Pacific